

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL
MARLBORO COUNTY CONFERENCE ROOM
“ SPECIAL CALLED MEETING”

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007

6 PM

CHAIRMAN	JEAN WALLACE MCLEAN
VICE-CHAIR	MICKEY ROGERS
ADMINISTRATOR	CECIL KIMREY
COUNTY ATTORNEY	DONNIE MCDONALD

COUNCIL:

JEAN MCLEAN, MICKEY ROGERS, DR. CAROLYN PRINCE, STEVE BLACKMON, AND	JEFF QUICK, CORRIE H. PLATO, KEN ALLEN, ANTHONY WOODS	x
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* ABSENT

INVOCATION – Ms. Jean Wallace McLean, Chair

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Mickey Rogers, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon to enter executive session to discuss a contractual issue with CTC. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Jeff Quick, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato to re-enter open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Ms. Jean Wallace McLean, Chair advised no decisions had been made, no votes had been taken.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET FOR FY 2007-2008.

All Appointed Officials, Department Heads, and Elected Officials were requested to attend the meeting to discuss the budget for FY 2007-2008.

Mr. Cecil Kimrey, County Administrator discussed briefly. Mr. Kimrey stated that to understand where the County's budget is, to look back at 2005 – the County was in the red approximately \$400,00, 2006 it was approximately \$664,000 in the red, and this year he projects a \$800,000 - \$900,000 deficit in the general funds. He advised there would have to be some changes as to how Marlboro County operates. Mr. Kimrey stated the General Assembly has passed a cap, can no longer increase millage beyond a prior seen deficit plus the population growth except for certain provisions. The only provision the County can look at is that it had a deficit for the last year. Mr. Kimrey stated he had spoken to other Administrators, they did not have any answers either as to how rural counties are to operate and provide the services people want. A key issue is very little growth, and the closing of one industry. Budgets for departments will have to be limited this year. He asked all department heads to help, with their help the County can make it through.

The State retirement system has gone up 1 ½% the last couple years, Medical Insurance has increased 7 ½% as well as Tort Liability and other insurances will incur a 15% increase. Marlboro County has experienced close to 2 million dollars in deficit in three years.

Mr. Kimrey advised a freeze had been placed on hiring at present time. He also advised if it were not necessary to purchase, a freeze was being placed on major purchases until it can be determined how to eliminate the deficit.

Ms. Jean Wallace McLean, Chair advised Council wished they had good news. Other counties are experiencing the same problems. Council is asking everyone to help, to pull together. All department heads were advised Council knows employees are stretched out. They believe things will pull out, County is experiencing some tough days, but, better days are coming.

Ms. Delorice Barrington, Treasurer questioned if a department loses an employee, will they have a problem replacing them. Mr. Kimrey, County Administrator advised it would have to go before the Finance Committee for consideration. The issues must be addressed now.

Mr. Gene Moore stated he would like to see the County pass a county-wide business license. Some citizens will not pay taxes – there is no way to force them to pay. However, if the county had a business license, the county could actually refuse to issue license renewal if they do not pay the taxes. Mr. Moore was advised Council had looked into providing business licenses but could not find a way which would be fair to the small businesses in the county. When questioned whether they could set a flat fee, it was advised it was illegal by State Statute, it had to be set depending on gross income.

Mr. Kimrey requested all department heads limit all over-time only to what is absolutely necessary. He advised he would like to meet with each department head individually to look at each budget.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked each Department Head to try to think of anything in their or any other department that can be done to cut down on expenses. She advised the revenue side is

down, the expenses are going up. She stated that Council is not trying to pick on any one department.

Various ideas were mentioned such as the local sales tax, a penny tax on fuel, looking at grants we are applying for and whether there are matches, looking more closely at fee in lieu agreements, and increasing fees for permits.

Mr. Gene Moore, Auditor questioned why Marlboro County was so quick to settle with Weyerhaeuser, since he had been fighting them since 2001. Mr. Moore was advised that Ray Jones got all of the information from DOR, worked on it for two years thoroughly and the amount we received was the correct amount. Mr. Moore advised the big fee runs out in 2010 and asked that county not extend it. He was advised an extension would not be given – there was no reason to do so.

Mr. Butch Mills, Economic Development Director stated that Council needs to consider each industries request on a case by case basis. He advised to be specific to the Mohawk project, because of what Marlboro County did for them, they are considering another expansion with additional jobs.

Ms. Shirley Dunsford, Delinquent Tax Collector stated Marlboro County needed to look at the Mobile Home Ordinance limiting homes 85 or older not being able to bring into county. She said the county needs to reconsider the date. Mr. Bob Eskridge, Building Codes Inspector advised he made a request to the County Administrator to allow him to look at rewriting the ordinance to be more in line with other counties. The Administrator had given him the go ahead. It was also noted that mobile homes are being moved in and out of the county without moving permits. All department heads were asked that if they saw any homes being moved without permits while out and about to please notify the Building Inspector.

Ms. Mickey Rogers commended everyone for doing an excellent job. She stated she did not want to see any jobs cut, everyone just needed to work together.

Ms. Delorice Barrington, Treasurer stated there is revenue in the county, a lot of out of state tags riding around everyday. She stated citizens of Marlboro County are registering their cars out of Marlboro County. She advised Horry County has a full time deputy assigned to office writing tickets for every vehicle at schools with out of state tags.

Mr. Gene Moore, Auditor commended Council for giving his employees raises to get their salaries up to a decent level.

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Jeff Quick to enter executive session to discuss a contractual issue. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ms. Mickey Rogers, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon to reenter open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Page Four – March 19, 2007 Minutes

Ms. Jean Wallace McLean, Chair advised no decisions had been made, no votes had been taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further discussion. The meeting was adjourned.

(SEAL)

JEAN WALLACE MCLEAN, CHAIR
MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

SUSAN E. RIVERS, CLERK
MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Adopted: April 12, 2007c